



Farm Service Agency

RHODE ISLAND FSA NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY / MARCH

LDP

Loan Deficiency Payments

Don't forget that the Farm Service Agency rolled out a new, streamlined process for requesting loan deficiency payments last August. The CCC-633 EZ is a combination of the original CCC-633 and the old, and now abandoned, CCC-709.

By signing the first page of the EZ form, producers indicate their intentions to receive LDP benefits. This one page covers all counties and all eligible harvested commodities for the entire crop year for the individual, joint operation or entity identified on the form.

One thing that hasn't changed is the requirement that the form must be signed before beneficial interest in the crop is lost. Once page 1 of the EZ form has been signed, the producer can submit an LDP request by completing page 2 at any time during the loan availability period — before or after losing beneficial interest.

Beginning with the 2006 crop year, CCC-633 EZ and eLDP online requests will be the only methods available to request LDPs.

Your RI County Office recently received a certificate of achievement from the Deputy Administrator for Field Operations; Washington D.C. for completing 100% of LDP's using the new online program.

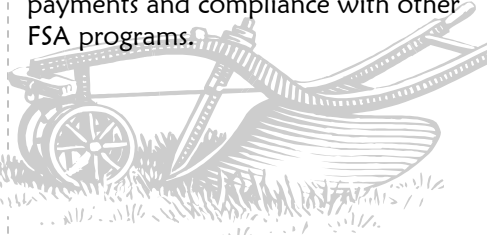
\$60,300 was dispersed during the 2005 crop year for corn and wool.

DCP

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program

This commodity based program is not a continuous program. Contracts for the DCP program must be updated each year. You can begin enrolling your farm in 2006 DCP. Once you have a signed contract on file, FSA can issue an advance payment (50% of direct payment) after you designate which month you want the payment.

Update your farm records. Changes made to your farming operation and acreage totals can affect your payments and compliance with other FSA programs.



Conservation Compliance

All participants in USDA programs are required to have a conservation system in place on all the highly erodible land (HEL) that they operate. Several areas where problems can arise with complying with a conservation system are; renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, planting different crops such as soybeans, and changing or removing existing conservation practices. It is very important that you contact the FSA office before doing any of the above. Also, it is very important that you contact our office before modifying - tiling, draining, dredging, filling or leveling - any wetland or drainage ditch. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in loss of all Federal payments and eligibility.

NAP DEADLINE

Noninsured Crop Assistance Program

March 15, 2006 NAP Closing Date

March 15 is the deadline date for producers to apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, or NAP, coverage using Form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, and pay the service fee at the county office. The application and service fee must be filed by March 15, the application closing date for 2006 spring seed crops along with vegetables.

The service fee is \$100 per crop per county or \$300 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$900 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees.

To qualify, a producer must be a landowner, tenant or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop.

County Committee

The 5 member RI County Farm Service Agency committee meets once a month. The committee has established **10:00 on first Wednesday of each month** as its regular meeting time and the RI County FSA office as its meeting place.

County committee members are:

Chairman - **Louis Escobar**
Vice Chair - **Ruth James**
Member - **Paul Brule**
Member - **Vincent Confreda**
Member - **James Steere**

County Information

Address:
60 Quaker Lane, Ste 49
Warwick, RI 02886

Phone Numbers:
401-828-3120
800-551-5144

Staff:
Melissa Turrisi, CED
Anne Belleville, PT
Devon Edmiston, PT
Joe Marcoccia, FLO
Roxanne Boisse, FLM
Sandy Ford, PT

Office Hours:
Monday – Friday
8:00 am-4:30 pm

www.fsa.usda.gov

Dates to Remember

Today	Sign-up for 2006 DCP
Feb. 20	Office Closed – President's Day
Mar. 1	COC Meeting
Mar 15	NAP Deadline
June 1	Sign-up ends for 2006 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Applications for FSA Farm Loan Assistance

Producers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications early. This will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible. In addition, due to budget constraints, farmers that wait until later in the year to apply, often run the risk of finding out that funding allocations have already been utilized.

Loans for Socially Disadvantaged

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) can make and guarantee loans to socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family size farms and ranches. Funds specifically for these loans are reserved each year. A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Asians and Pacific Islanders. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager or Officer for more details and assistance in applying.

Rural Youth Loans

USDA FSA makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 - 20 to establish and operate income producing projects. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H Clubs, FFA, or a similar organization or with a vocational teacher or county extension agent. The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

Delinquent Debtors Barred

Under the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (DCIA), producers owing a delinquent non-tax debt to the federal government are ineligible for federal financial assistance, including marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments.

Honey Loans Available

To be eligible for a loan, the producer must have produced honey in the United States during the calendar year for which the loan is requested, and extracted the honey on or before Dec. 31 of the applicable crop year; have continuous beneficial interest in the honey through date of repayment of the loan; and been responsible for the financial risk of keeping. Producers are responsible for maintaining the quality of farm-stored honey during the term of the loan.

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Rhode Island County Office
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